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ada below the "fair market value" at which they are sold in the country of origin. The special duty is equal to the difference between the two prices and is levied in addition to the regular duty.

The author is frankly anti-protectionist and traces most of the political evils in Canada, especially political corruption, directly to the effects of the protective policy. The manufacturers of Canada, in his opinion, have become a "privilege order" (page 456) which shapes the policy of the country in its own interests no matter which party is in power. Even the idea that the tariff is an important means of cementing a great colonial empire is likewise rejected by the author who thus (page 466) sums up his view of the time-honored system:

"Tariff politics, in a word, are obviously and essentially the most unsocial and most provincial of petty politics. They set every man's hand against his neighbor; class against class; farmers and importers against manufacturers; coal producers against coal consumers; province against province; and colonial manufacturers against manufacturers in the motherland. They are, moreover, utterly antagonistic to any neighborly policy among nations, or to any large conception of Empire."

N. I. STONE.

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Report on National Vitality: Its Wastes and Conservation. Prepared for the National Conservation Commission by IRVING FISHER, Professor of Political Economy in Yale University. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909. ix, 138.)

It is fortunate that this valuable monograph, which is now issued as Bulletin 30 of the Committee of One Hundred on National Health, will find more readers than those who would have happened upon it in the reports of the National Conservation Commission. It is distinctly the best general statement in print of the aims, methods, and achieved results of the public health movement. It brings together in a well-organized, closely knit, and yet distinctly readable discussion such matters as the causes of excessive mortality, of serious illnesses, of minor ailments,

and of undue fatigue, the extent to which these things may be prevented, and the importance for this end of various measures of public, semi-public, and personal hygiene.

The sources of information used by Professor Fisher are remarkably varied in character. Registration reports, life-tables, medical treatises, numerous letters from personal correspondents, records of dietary experiments (not a few of them conducted by Professor Fisher himself) are typical of, but do not exhaust the list. That secondary sources have been used freely (particularly in statistical matters) is undoubtedly to be explained by the avowed purpose of the monograph (at once popular and comprehensive) as well as by the time limitations mentioned in its preface. One wonders, however, whether at certain points more than due significance has not been given to statistical estimates made by physicians on the basis of their own experience (pages 35, 39, 93, 94). But in the main, Professor Fisher has been conservative in his selection and interpretation of facts. This is notably the case in his treatment of the vexed matter of dietary standards. Other debatable questions are of necessity dismissed with a simple judgment, such as that "Cancer is probably on the increase" (page 27). The author does not question the current belief, apparently borne out by the statistics, that the decrease in infant mortality has been accompanied by a slight increase in mortality at the more advanced ages. It is at least possible, however, that this increase is only apparent, caused by the decreasing overstatement, in census returns, of the ages of persons more than 60 years old. So far as such overstatement prevails, the mortality rates for advanced age groups are calculated upon the basis of a "population living" which is not only larger than the truth, but which contains a selection of younger lives. It is significant that the experience of English life-insurance companies is at variance with the Registrar-General's tables quoted by Professor Fisher, in that the former shows a diminution in the rate of mortality at all ages.

The most effective count in Professor Fisher's indictment of the continuing indifference to the importance of hygienic progress is his estimate (based on an elaborate and apparently conservative calculation) that fifteen years could be added to the present average length of human life in the United States "if knowledge

now existing among well-informed men in the medical profession were actually applied in a reasonable way and to a reasonable extent." He attempts, moreover, a rough estimate of the annual economic loss from preventable deaths and preventable illness, placing the former at a minimum of \$1,000,000,000, and the latter at a minimum of \$500,000,000. The estimate of the mortality loss involves among other things the capitalization of discounted probable future earnings (including the "earnings" of housewives). One may easily concede to Professor Fisher the value of putting the facts in such a way that they will appeal forcibly to men who are accustomed to measure things in money values, and may yet entertain grave doubts of the theoretical validity of estimates of this kind. Even if, in accordance with Professor Fisher's well known views, we are willing to impute a capital value to personal earnings, we may hesitate to admit the *additive quality* of such capital values. And who sustain these money losses?—the men who do not live to get the incomes they might have earned?—or a mercantilistically conceived "nation"? At any rate, why not capitalize probable expenditures as well as probable earnings and thus show that if excessive mortality diminishes the national "assets it also diminishes the national liabilities?" On the whole, one may be glad that Professor Fisher admits that "the real wastes can be only expressed in terms of human misery."

Minor errors noted by the reviewer are few. Census statistics of the size of "families" are quoted as statistics of fecundity (page 54). The monograph is provided with an "Abstract," a very full "Summary" and a good index.

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Die Überbevölkerung Deutschlands und ihre Bekämpfung. By FERDINAND GOLDSTEIN. (Munich: Ernst Reinhardt, 1909. Pp. 128. 2.50 m.)

In the September, 1909, issue of this magazine was a review of Plauzoles' *La maternité et la défense nationale contre la dépopulation*. In this book was developed a proposition to increase the birth-rate of France. The position of Germany with its rapidly